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TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

ALL OECD CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CALGARY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY LUANDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E LANDFAIR
DATE/CASE ID: 18 JAN 2005 200401096

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SOMALIA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, PREL, XA, US
SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE - DECEMBER 10, 1993

ROME FOR CHACON ALSO FOR VATICAN AND FODAG

1. BELOW IS AF GUIDANCE ON GABON, IVORY COAST, MALI,
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MALAWI, SOUTH AFRICA, RWANDA AND STATEMENTS AND GUIDANCE
ON BURUNDI AND ZAIRE.

2. AF PRESS GUIDANCE: GABON

Q. WHO WON THE ELECTION IN GABON?

A: THERE ARE NO OFFICIAL RESULTS AS YET. THE MINISTER OF
TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION DECLARED IN A DECEMBER 9 RADIO
BROADCAST THAT PRESIDENT BONGO WON REELECTION WITH 51.07
PERCENT OF THE VOTE.

HOWEVER, THE COMMISSION FOR THE CENTRALIZATION OF ELECTION
RESULTS IS STILL COMPILING THE RESULTS FROM ALL THE

POLLING STATIONS. IT HAS YET TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL
ANNOUNCEMENT OR TO TRANSMIT "THE ENTIRE FILE" TO THE
CONSTITUTIONAL COURT, WHICH THEN OFFICIALLY PROCLAIMS THE
RESULTS OF THE ELECTION.

Q. WHAT DOES THE U.S. THINK ABOUT OPPOSITION ALLEGATIONS
OF FRAUD?

A: IT WOULD BE PREMATURE FOR US TO MAKE ANY STATEMENT ON
THE CONDUCT OF THE ELECTIONS BEFORE THE OFFICIAL RESULTS
ARE RELEASED. WE ALSO LOOK FORWARD TO THE ASSESSMENT OF
THE ENTIRE ELECTORAL PROCESS BY THE VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL

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OBSERVER DELEGATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN PRESENT IN GABON,
INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN
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INSTITUTE (AAI), THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS'
THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU). AND THE AFRICAN
NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC). TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE,
NONE OF THESE GROUPS HAS YET ISSUED A REPORT ON THE
ELECTIONS.

Q. HOW DID THE VOTING ITSELF GO?

A: VOTER TURNOUT WAS MASSIVE AND PEACEFUL. HOWEVER,
SEVERAL OBSERVER DELEGATIONS HAVE DRAWN ATTENTION TO
NUMEROUS ADMINISTRATIVE AND LOGISTICAL DEFICIENCIES IN THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE ELECTIONS, PARTICULARLY IN LIBREVILLE.

Q. DID THE U.S. SEND OBSERVERS?

A: YES. THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN INSTITUTE, FUNDED BY A.I.D.
THROUGH THE AFRICAN REGIONAL ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE FUND
(AREAF) CONSORTIUM, SENT A 15-MEMBER OBSERVER MISSION.
THEY HAVE NOT YET PROVIDED THEIR FINAL ASSESSMENT OF THE
ELECTION PROCESS.

Q. ARE AMERICANS IN ANY DANGER?

A: ALL AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE SAFE AND ACCOUNTED FOR. (WE
HAVE ACTIVATED THE WARDEN SYSTEM.) THERE IS NO THREAT TO
AMERICANS OR OTHER FOREIGNERS AT THIS TIME (BUT OUR
EMBASSY IN LIBREVILLE HAS ADVISED ALL AMERICAN CITIZENS TO
MAINTAIN REGULAR CONTACT AND KEEP A LOW PROFILE IN CASE
THE ELECTION RESULTS PRODUCE A VIOLENT REACTION).

Q. HOW MUCH AID DO WE GIVE GABON?

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A: BECAUSE IT HAS SUCH A HIGH GDP PER CAPITA, GABON
RECEIVES VERY LITTLE U.S. AID; IT DID RECEIVE DOLLARS
140,000 LAST YEAR IN MILITARY TRAINING FUNDS (IMET
PROGRAM). THERE IS A PEACE CORPS PROGRAM, PRIMARILY
DEVOTED TO BUILDING RURAL SCHOOLS.

Q. HOW MANY AMERICANS ARE THERE IN GABON?

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A: THERE ARE 355 AMERICANS IN GABON, INCLUDING 31 EMBASSY EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS AND 129 PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS. THE US AMBASSADOR IN GABON IS JOSEPH WILSON.

3. AF PRESS GUIDANCE: IVORY COAST (REVISED FROM YESTERDAY)

Q: WHO IS IN CHARGE IN IVORY COAST?

A: IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE IVORIAN CONSTITUTION, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT HENRI KONAN BEDIE (KOE-NAN BED-EE-AY) HAS ASSUMED THE PRESIDENCY AND IS IN CHARGE.

Q: WHAT ABOUT REPORTS THAT PRIME MINISTER OUATTARA IS REFUSING TO RECOGNIZE MR. KONAN BEDIE AS PRESIDENT?

A: OUR EMBASSY REPORTS THAT PRIME MINISTER OUATTARA (WATCH-ARA) AND HIS CABINET RESIGNED TODAY, DEC. 9, AND THAT PRESIDENT KONAN BEDIE HAS MOVED INTO THE PRESIDENCY.

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Q: IS THE US DEALING WITH HENRI KONAN BEDIE?

A: YES. IVORY COAST'S CONSTITUTION MAKES CLEAR THAT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT BECOMES PRESIDENT UPON THE DEATH OF THE INCUMBENT AND SERVES UNTIL THE NEXT SCHEDULED ELECTIONS. HENRI KONAN BEDIE WAS THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT AT THE TIME OF THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY (HOO-FOO-EH BWAN-YEE).

Q: ANY COMMENT ABOUT REPORTS THAT THE MILITARY SUPPORTS PRIME MINISTER OUATTARA?

A: THERE IS NO INDICATION THE IVORIAN MILITARY SUPPORT ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE CONSTITUTIONALLY MANDATED TRANSFER OF POWER.

Q: HOW MANY AMERICANS ARE IN COTE D'IVOIRE?

A: THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 1,600 US CITIZENS IN COTE D'IVOIRE, INCLUDING 435 US GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS (INCLUDING PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS). HUME HORAN IS THE US AMBASSADOR.

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4. AF PRESS GUIDANCE: MALI

Q: WAS THERE A COUP D'ETAT IN MALI?

A: NO. PRELIMINARY REPORTS INDICATE THAT A COUP PLOT BY
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JAILED LIEUTENANT COLONEL OUMAR DIALLO WAS UNCOVERED BY
MALIAN AUTHORITIES. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, DIALLO
RECRUITED A NUMBER OF NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS TO ARRANGE
HIS ESCAPE FROM PRISON AND JOIN HIM IN AN ATTEMPT TO
OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT.

Q: WHAT IS THE SITUATION IN MALI NOW?

A: THINGS APPEAR TO BE UNDER CONTROL IN BAMAKO. DIALLO
HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO TIMBUKTU, AN ISOLATED CITY IN
NORTHERN MALI.

5. AF PRESS GUIDANCE: MALAWI (RESUBMITTED)

Q: WHAT IS THE CURRENT SECURITY SITUATION IN MALAWI?

A: ON DECEMBER 3, CLASHES BROKE OUT IN MALAWI BETWEEN
ARMY UNITS AND THE MALAWI YOUNG PIONEERS (MEMBERS OF THE
PARAMILITARY YOUTH WING OF THE RULING MALAWI CONGRESS
PARTY). THE YOUNG PIONEERS HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF
DEBATE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PARTIES WHO
HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING MALAWI'S TRANSITION FROM A
SINGLE-PARTY STATE TO A MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY. ON
DECEMBER 3, THE MALAWI GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE YOUNG
PIONEERS WOULD BE DISARMED IMMEDIATELY.

THE SECURITY SITUATION IN MOST PARTS OF THE COUNTRY HAS
RETURNED TO NORMAL. NO INCIDENTS OF SHOOTING OR UNREST
HAVE BEEN REPORTED SINCE SATURDAY DECEMBER 4. ARMY AND
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POLICE UNITS ARE CONTINUING TO DISARM THE MALAWI YOUNG
PIONEERS AND HAVE MET NO RESISTANCE.

THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF ANY INJURIES TO AMERICANS OR ANY

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INDICATION THAT FOREIGNERS WERE TARGETS OF THE UNREST.

Q: WHO IS CONTROLLING THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI AT THIS TIME?

A: IN A SPEECH ON DECEMBER 7, PRESIDENT HASTINGS BANDA ANNOUNCED HE WAS RESUMING HIS OFFICIAL DUTIES AND THAT HE WAS FULLY RECOVERED FROM BRAIN SURGERY. THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED ON DECEMBER 7 THAT FOLLOWING A COMPLETE MEDICAL ASSESSMENT. DOCTORS HAD CERTIFIED THAT BANDA HAD COMPLETELY RECOVERED. AS A RESULT, THE THREE-MAN PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL, WHICH HAD BEEN ACTING IN HIS PLACE, HAS BEEN DISSOLVED.

THE NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL (COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT AND ALL REGISTERED OPPOSITION PARTIES) WHICH PROVIDES POLICY ADVICE TO THE MALAWI CABINET AND PARLIAMENT CONTINUES TO MEET ON A REGULAR BASIS.

Q: HAS THE RECENT UNREST SET BACK THE TIMETABLE FOR ELECTIONS?

A: THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT LAST WEEK'S UNREST WILL DELAY MALAWI'S ON-GOING TRANSITION TO A MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY. MULTI-PARTY PRESIDENTIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS ARE SCHEDULED FOR MAY 17, 1994.

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Q: WHO IS THE US AMBASSADOR IN MALAWI?

A: THE US AMBASSADOR IN MALAWI IS MICHAEL PISTOR.

6. AF PRESS GUIDANCE: SOUTH AFRICA (TWO GUIDANCES)

TEC/DECISION TO SEND POLICE TO NATAL

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE START UP OF THE TRANSITIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN SOUTH AFRICA?

A: THE TRANSITIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (TEC) MARKS THE EFFECTIVE END OF EXCLUSIVE WHITE RULE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

THE TEC CONSISTS OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM 16 OF THE NEGOTIATING PARTIES; MORE PARTIES ARE EXPECTED TO JOIN SHORTLY. THUS FAR, NONE OF THE PARTIES IN THE FREEDOM

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ALLIANCE, INCLUDING CHIEF MINISTER BUTHELEZI'S INKATHA
FREEDOM PARTY, HAS JOINED. WE CONTINUE TO URGE THOSE

PARTIES TO JOIN THE TEC AND PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE
PROCESS LEADING TO THE ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 1994.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THE DECISION BY THE TEC TO
CALL ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE TO DEPLOY IN NORTHERN
NATAL?

A: THE MULTIPARTY TEC AGREED UNANIMOUSLY YESTERDAY
(DECEMBER 9) TO CALL ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE TO DEPLOY
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IN NORTHERN NATAL, AN AREA WHICH HAS SUFFERED FROM CHRONIC
VIOLENCE OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS.

THIS ACTION IS CONSISTENT WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT THE
SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND THE TEC HAVE TO ENSURE THE
PERSONAL SECURITY OF ALL SOUTH AFRICANS DURING THIS
TRANSITIONAL PHASE. THEY MUST JOINTLY TAKE WHATEVER STEPS
NECESSARY TO FULFILL THIS OBLIGATION. WE URGE ALL PARTIES
TO JOIN THE EFFORT TO DIMINISH VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN NATAL
AND THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

SECURITY TRAINING FOR THE ANC

Q: HOW VALUABLE WAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S TRAINING FOR
ANC SECURITY OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROTECTION OF
ANC LEADERS?

A: AS SOUTH AFRICA APPROACHES ITS FIRST EVER NONRACIAL
ELECTIONS, MANY OPPONENTS OF CHANGE HAVE THREATENED TO
DERAIL THE PROCESS. THE ANC, IN PARTICULAR, HAS BEEN
CONCERNED THAT AN ATTACK AGAINST NELSON MANDELA COULD NOT
ONLY UPSET THE TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY, BUT MIGHT ALSO
THROW THE COUNTRY INTO CIVIL CHAOS.

WE SHARE SIMILAR CONCERNS, PARTICULARLY FOLLOWING THE
ASSASSINATION OF ANC LEADER CHRIS HANI. THEREFORE, AT THE
REQUEST OF THE ANC, A TEAM FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S
BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY PROVIDED TRAINING IN
PROTECTIVE AND DEFENSIVE SECURITY TECHNIQUES FOR ANC
OFFICIALS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROTECTION OF MR.
MANDELA AND OTHER TOP ANC LEADERS.

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THE ANC HAS TOLD US THAT THE TRAINING PROGRAM HAS IMPROVED THE PROTECTIVE CAPABILITIES OF THE ANC SECURITY PERSONNEL.

7. AF PRESS GUIDANCE: RWANDA

Q. THERE WAS AN EDITORIAL IN TODAY'S WASHINGTON POST

ABOUT THE VISIT OF A RWANDAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST?
HAVE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BEEN A PROBLEM IN RWANDA?

A: THERE WERE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES DURING THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED CIVIL WAR, IN WHICH GOVERNMENT FORCES FOUGHT AGAINST THE RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT. CIVILIANS SUPPORTING EITHER SIDE OR SHARING THE SAME ETHNIC BACKGROUND AS ONE OF THE TWO COMBATANT GROUPS WERE TARGETED FOR HARASSMENT AND IN SOME CASES INJURED OR KILLED. BOTH GOVERNMENT FORCES AND THE RPF ENGAGED IN THESE ABUSES.

THE TWO SIDES SIGNED A PEACE ACCORD ON AUGUST 4 OF THIS YEAR. THE ACCORD PROVIDES FOR THE FORMATION OF A NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT, WHICH WILL INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REBEL GROUP. DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS ARE PLANNED FOR THE END OF A TRANSITION PERIOD.

WITH THE SIGNING OF A PEACE ACCORD THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN RWANDA HAS IMPROVED. HOWEVER THERE HAVE BEEN SOME RECENT INCIDENTS IN WHICH CIVILIANS WERE KILLED BY UNKNOWN FORCES. THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING FORCE

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IS INVESTIGATING THESE INCIDENTS. WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT THIS RECENT VIOLENCE AND ARE MONITORING THE SITUATION CLOSELY.

Q. WHO IS MONIQUE MUJAWAMARIYA AND WHY IS SHE IN THE U.S.?

A: MS. MUJAWAMARIYA IS A RWANDAN HUMAN RIGHTS WATCHER. SHE IS PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE RWANDAN ASSOCIATION OF THE DEFENSE OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AND PUBLIC LIBERTIES AND IS ALSO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE LEAGUE FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUALS IN THE REGION OF THE GREAT LAKES (WHICH INCLUDES RWANDA, BURUNDI, AND ZAIRE).

GIVEN THIS ADMINISTRATION'S EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, IT

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IS MOST APPROPRIATE THAT SHE IS IN THE U.S. TO MEET WITH OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS AND IS A GUEST AT THE WHITE HOUSE TODAY AT CEREMONIES COMMEMORATING HUMAN RIGHTS DAY.

8. AF PRESS STATEMENT - BURUNDI

BURUNDI: U.S. LIFTS SUSPENSION OF AID

THE UNITED STATES IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, IT IS LIFTING THE SUSPENSION OF AID TO

BURUNDI. THIS DECISION WAS TAKEN IN LIGHT OF THE FAILURE OF THE OCTOBER 21 COUP ATTEMPT AND IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST OF BURUNDI'S ELECTED GOVERNMENT. WE VIEW THE LIFTING OF THE SUSPENSION AS A CONCRETE SIGN OF OUR

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SUPPORT FOR, AND CONFIDENCE IN, THE GOVERNMENT.

WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE BURUNDI GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO CONSOLIDATE ITS CONTROL AND RESTORE ORDER AND DEMOCRACY TO THE COUNTRY. WE WERE PLEASED THAT THE CEREMONIES HONORING SLAIN PRESIDENT NDADAYE AND OTHER OFFICIALS WERE HELD IN A CALM AND PEACEFUL ATMOSPHERE, BEFITTING THE SOLEMN OCCASION. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO URGE ALL BURUNDIANS TO CEASE ALL VIOLENCE, RESPECT THE AUTHORITY OF THE ELECTED GOVERNMENT, AND RETURN TO THE PATH OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

Q. WHEN AND WHY WAS AID TO BURUNDI SUSPENDED?

A: AID WAS INITIALLY SUSPENDED IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE OCTOBER 21 COUP ATTEMPT, WHEN IT WAS UNCLEAR WHETHER A MILITARY COUP WAS UNDERWAY AND, IF SO, WHETHER IT WOULD SUCCEED. SINCE THE ELECTED GOVERNMENT SURVIVED THE COUP ATTEMPT, THE REASONS FOR THE SUSPENSION NO LONGER APPLY.

Q. HOW MUCH AID DO WE PROVIDE TO BURUNDI?

A: UNITED STATES ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI STOOD AT DOLLARS 16 MILLION IN FY-93. WE HAVE SUPPORTED MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CARE AND FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES, PRIVATIZATION AND ENTERPRISE CREATION, AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT. WE HAVE ALSO PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO THE DEMOCRATIC REFORM PROCESS. WE ARE ASSESSING THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FOR FY-94 IN

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LIGHT OF BURUNDI'S CURRENT NEEDS. ONGOING PROJECTS CAN
RESUME IMMEDIATELY.

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Q. WILL THE FOCUS OF YOUR AID CHANGE?

A: OUR AID PROGRAM WILL RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF BURUNDI. THE IMMEDIATE NEED IS TO ADDRESS THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS. AS A RESULT, WE PLAN TO FOCUS OUR AID IN THE NEAR-TERM ON HUMANITARIAN RELIEF.

Q. WAS ALL ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI SUSPENDED AFTER THE COUP ATTEMPT?

A: NO. THE U.S. PROVIDED CERTAIN RELIEF ASSISTANCE, SUCH AS DISASTER, EMERGENCY, AND REFUGEE RELIEF DURING THIS PERIOD. THE PRESIDENT RECENTLY APPROVED DOLLARS 5 MILLION IN EMERGENCY RELIEF TO BURUNDI REFUGEES, AND USAID'S OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROVIDED RELIEF SUPPLIES AND DISASTER ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI'S DISPLACED AND REFUGEES. THESE EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE.

Q. IS MILITARY ASSISTANCE BEING RESUMED AS WELL?

A: THE SUSPENSION HAS BEEN LIFTED ON ALL AID. OUR RECENT MILITARY AID HAS BEEN LIMITED TO TRAINING. WE WILL CONTINUE TO ASSESS POTENTIAL ASSISTANCE IN LIGHT OF THE CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES. WE INTEND TO INCREASE OUR FOCUS ON HELPING BURUNDI IMPROVE CIVIL/MILITARY RELATIONS.

Q. WHAT IS THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION?

A: THE GOVERNMENT IS WORKING TO CONSOLIDATE ITS CONTROL
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OVER THE COUNTRY, RESTORE ORDER, AND RETURN THE COUNTRY TO NORMALCY. ALTHOUGH SOME MINISTERS ARE STAYING AT A PROTECTED HOTEL OUT OF SECURITY CONCERN, CABINET MEMBERS ARE WORKING IN THEIR OFFICES. MINISTERS ARE REGULARLY TRAVELING INTO THE COUNTRYSIDE OR APPEARING IN THE MEDIA TO URGE CALM.

THE MILITARY HIGH COMMAND HAS REPEATED THAT IT IS LOYAL TO THE GOVERNMENT. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ESTABLISHED A

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COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE THE MURDER OF
PRESIDENT NDADAYE AND OTHER OFFICIALS AND THE ETHNIC
VIOLENCE THAT FOLLOWED.

Q. WHO'S IN CHARGE OF THE GOVERNMENT?

A: UNDER THE BURUNDI CONSTITUTION, IN THE EVENT OF THE
DEATH OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE HEAD OF THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY, THE CABINET ACTS COLLECTIVELY AS PRESIDENT UNTIL
NEW ELECTIONS CAN BE HELD. A DATE FOR NEW ELECTIONS HAS
NOT BEEN SET YET.

Q. WHAT IS THE CURRENT SECURITY SITUATION?

A: BUJUMBURA REMAINS CALM. THERE ARE SPORADIC REPORTS OF
VIOLENCE IN OUTLYING AREAS AND THE INTERIOR BUT OVERALL,
THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE APPEARS TO BE SUBSIDING.

Q. WHAT ARE THE LATEST REFUGEE FIGURES? HOW MANY ARE
DISPLACED INTERNALLY?

A: INTERNATIONAL RELIEF AGENCIES ESTIMATE THERE ARE ABOUT
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720,000 BURUNDI REFUGEES IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES
(FYI: RWANDA - 375,000, TANZANIA - 300,000. ZAIRE -
46,000). THE NUMBER OF DISPLACED IS DIFFICULT TO
DETERMINE BECAUSE MANY DISPLACED PERSONS ARE HIDING IN THE
HILLS. ESTIMATES RANGE FROM 250,000 TO AS MANY AS ONE
MILLION.

Q. WHAT IS THE LATEST ON THE OAU AND UN EFFORTS?

A: THE OAU MEDIATORS VISITED BUJUMBURA RECENTLY AND ARE
CONTINUING THEIR WORK ON A PROPOSED PROTECTIVE FORCE,
WHICH WOULD HELP ASSURE THE SECURITY OF GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS UNTIL BURUNDI TROOPS HAVE BEEN TRAINED TO TAKE
OVER THAT DUTY. WE SUPPORT THE OAU EFFORT AND ARE
EXAMINING HOW BEST TO ASSIST.

THE UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, AHMEDOU OULD ABDALLAH, HAS
BEEN WORKING IN BURUNDI TO FOSTER A POSITIVE POLITICAL
DIALOGUE IN AN EFFORT TO BUILD CONFIDENCE.

Q. HOW MANY AMERICANS ARE IN BURUNDI?

A: THERE ARE ABOUT 250 AMERICANS IN BURUNDI, OF WHOM 78

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ARE US GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS. THERE IS NO U.S. AMBASSADOR IN BURUNDI AT THIS TIME. THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IS LEONARD LANGE.

9. AF PRESS STATEMENT - ZAIRE

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THE UNITED STATES CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN KINSHASA, ACCCOMPANIED BY THE AMBASSADORS OF FRANCE AND BELGIUM, HELD MEETINGS RECENTLY WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND PRIME MINISTER TSHISEKEDI. THE THREE WESTERN ENVOYS ASKED BOTH PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND MR. TSHISEKEDI TO PUT ASIDE PERSONAL DIFFERENCES IN THE LARGER INTERESTS OF THE ZAIRIAN NATION AND ITS LONG-SUFFERING PEOPLE.

THE THREE ENVOYS URGED THE PARTIES TO SIGN THE RECENTLY-NEGOTIATED TRANSITION AGREEMENT, AND TO MOVE QUICKLY BEYOND THE TEXT OF THE ACCORD TO PUT AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT IN PLACE. THE ENVOYS CALLED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COALITION GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY (WITHOUT EXCLUSION) WHICH CAN ADDRESS THE PRESSING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN ZAIRE AND WHICH CAN BEGIN TO PLAN THE EQUALLY-URGENT ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING OF THE COUNTRY.

THE UNITED STATES, FRANCE AND BELGIUM CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIZATION IN ZAIRE. THE POLITICAL IMPASSE MUST BE BROKEN IN ORDER TO REVITALIZE AND PRESS FORWARD WITH THE TRANSITION PROCESS. WE CALL ON ALL ZAIRIANS, AND PARTICULARLY THOSE INVOLVED IN POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS. TO COOPERATE WITH EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE IMPASSE AND ESTABLISH A WORKING GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY.

Q. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS IN ZAIRE?

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A. POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY IN ZAIRE PRODUCED A DRAFT AGREEMENT ON THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF A COALITION GOVERNMENT. THE AGREEMENT REMAINS UNSIGNED.

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ON DECEMBER 3, THE OPPOSITION COALITION KNOWN AS THE HOLY UNION ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS BREAKING OFF NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRO-MOBUTU POLITICAL FORCES. THE HOLY UNION SUPPORTS ETIENNE TSHISEKEDI (CHI-SAY-KAY-DEE).

Q. WHY DID THE OPPOSITION END NEGOTIATIONS?

A. ACCORDING TO THE HOLY UNION, AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE REACHED ON THREE POINTS:

A CLAUSE WHICH PROVIDED FOR NEUTRALITY OF GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS DURING THE TRANSITION.

WHICH OF THE COMPETING CONSTITUTIONAL TEXTS WOULD APPLY DURING THE TRANSITION. AND

THE LEGITIMACY OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PRESIDENT DURING THE TRANSITION.

Q. WHAT DID THE THREE WESTERN ENVOYS (BELGIUM/FRANCE/US) TELL MOBUTU AND TSHISEKEDI?

A. THE THREE ENVOYS URGED BOTH PARTIES TO RETURN TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

IN ADDITION, THE ENVOYS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF SIGNING

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THE TRANSITION AGREEMENT, AND THEN MOVING BEYOND THE TEXT TO PUT IN PLACE AN EFFECTIVE COALITION GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY.

ZAIRE FACES URGENT HUMANITARIAN, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. A GOVERNMENT OF CONSENSUS IS ESSENTIAL IN ORDER

TO ADDRESS THE DIFFICULT TASK OF REBUILDING THE COUNTRY.

Q. WHY DON.T WE JUST TELL MOBUTU TO LEAVE?

A. THE UNITED STATES HAS LONG IDENTIFIED MOBUTU AS THE PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE TO DEMOCRATIC CHANGE IN ZAIRE. HE IS, HOWEVER, RECOGNIZED BY EVEN THE OPPOSITION AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNTRY. MOREOVER, THE TRANSITION AGREEMENT ESTABLISHES THE PRESIDENCY (AND BY EXTENSION, PRESIDENT MOBUTU) AS ONE OF THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE TRANSITION.

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Q. DOES THE UNITED STATES PROVIDE ANY AID TO ZAIRE?

A. THE UNITED STATES SUSPENDED DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE IN 1991 UNDER THE BROOKE AMENDMENT, WHICH PROHIBITS DEVELOPMENT AID TO COUNTRIES IN SUBSTANTIAL ARREARS TO THE UNITED STATES. LAST MONTH, USAID ANNOUNCED THE INTENTION TO CLOSE ITS MISSION IN ZAIRE.

WE HAVE CONTINUED TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN ZAIRE WORKING PRIMARILY WITH INTERNATIONAL NGO'S. IN FY-1993, THE UNITED STATES PROVIDED ALMOST 7 MILLION DOLLARS IN EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN

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ZAIRE.

Q. WHAT IS THE STATE OF THE HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY IN ZAIRE?

A. USAID REPORTED THAT 3 MILLION PEOPLE ARE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY MALNUTRITION. ADDITIONALLY, AS A RESULT OF INTER-ETHNIC VIOLENCE IN SHABA, NORTH KIVU' AND THE KASAIS, MORE THAN THREE QUARTERS OF A MILLION PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FORCED FROM THEIR HOMES AND BUSINESSES.

Q. WILL THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S SPECIAL ENVOY TO ZAIRE, LAKHDAR BRAHIMI, RESUME HIS MEDIATION EFFORT?

A. THAT QUESTION IS BEST ADDRESSED TO THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL.

Q. HOW MANY AMERICAN CITIZENS CURRENTLY RESIDE IN ZAIRE?

A. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 980 AMERICAN CITIZENS RESIDENT NOW IN ZAIRE, INCLUDING FEWER THAN 40 U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND THEIR ADULT DEPENDENTS.

Q. DO WE HAVE A U.S. AMBASSADOR NOW IN ZAIRE?

A. WE HAVE NOT HAD AN AMBASSADOR IN ZAIRE SINCE MARCH 1993. WE ARE REPRESENTED IN KINSHASA BY CHARGE D.AFFAIRES JOHN YATES. AN AMBASSADOR WILL NOT BE ASSIGNED TO KINSHASA UNTIL THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IS ALLOWED TO MOVE FORWARD.

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